held on 22nd June 2009, approved the UGC (Fee Structure in Institutions Deemed-to-be-Universities) Regulations, 2009 and UGC (Admission in Professional Programmes of Study at Institutions Deemed-to-be-Universities) Regulations, 2009, which are at present with the Government for consideration.

(b) and (c) While there are no specific complaints received with regard to lack of transparency, the Central Government is committed for ensuring transparency in the higher education system. Accordingly, in order to ensure that all the vital information / details relating to higher educational institutions are placed in the public domain, the Government has issued a directive under section 20(1) of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act 1956, to the Commission to direct universities and higher educational institutions recognized under clause (f) of Section 2 of the UGC Act, 1956 and institutions declared as Institutions 'Deemed to be Universities' under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956 to place on every such institution's website full and complete information relating to availability of infrastructure and physical assets, admission criteria, details of fee structure, details regarding courses and academic curricula, information regarding faculty position, details regarding study centres etc.

Language of medium in schools

2685. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the important recommendations of National Knowledge Commission (NKC) in the area of school education from primary to higher; and

(b) whether his Ministry has prepared action taken report on the NKC's recommendations as there are many recommendation concerning language of medium and second language in addition to English etc?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The important recommendations made by National Knowledge Commission in the area of school education from primary to higher secondary education include the following:-

- There is a need for a central legislation affirming the Right to Education.
- Substantially increased public spending both for elementary and secondary education.
- Urban planning and local planning must explicitly incorporate the physical requirements for schooling, including provisions for playgrounds and other school facilities.
- Norms for central Government disbursal to States for SSA funds must be made more flexible.
- There should be greater flexibility in disbursing funds down to the school level and a greater degree of autonomy of local level management in the use of funds.
- Early childhood education is extremely important and must be universalized.

- The collection and speedy dissemination of accurate and current data on schooling must be made a priority.
- All children must be given schools of acceptable quality.
- School management must be decentralized as far as possible.
- The Training of school teachers is extremely inadequate and also poorly managed. Pre-service training needs to be improved and regulated, while systems for in-service training require expansion and major reform in all States.
- To improve Vocational Education and Training (VET).
- A large chain of science talent cells should be created and each school should be funded to open a science club for popularization of science.
- To focus on creating a national ICT infrastructure, improving regulatory structures, developing web based common open resources, establishing a credit bank and providing a national testing service in the area of distance education.
- Reforms in the curriculum and examination system.
- Revamping school inspection with the greater role for local stakeholders and greater transparency in the system.
- Teaching of English as a language should be introduced, along with the first language (either mother tongue or the regional language) of the child, starting from Class I.

The recommendations of National Knowledge Commission are under examination.

Girls' hostel in Madhya Pradesh

†2686. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of proposals received by University Grants Commission (UGC) from the colleges of Madhya Pradesh for construction of girls hostels under Tenth Five Year Plan alongwith the details thereof;

(b) out of the above, the total number of colleges for which financial assistance has been sanctioned for construction of girls' hostel and the details thereof;

(c) the current status of approval of pending proposals; and

(d) by when the grant will be sanctioned for these pending proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Comrnission(UGC), 73 proposals has been received from colleges in Madhya Pradesh for construction of girls' hostels. Out of them, financial assistance has been sanctioned to 48 colleges and the remaining 25 proposals were not found fit. Details of Women Hostels sanctioned & released by the UGC, is given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(d) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.